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DDP 66-2808  
Personnel 3


27 MAY 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Purple Heart Awards

1. This is to summarize, bring up to date, and, hopefully, conclude the subject of Purple Heart Awards for Agency personnel assigned in Vietnam. The correspondence between Deputy Secretary of Defense Vance and Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson, and the action by the Inter-Agency Committee chaired by Ambassador Holmes have all been reviewed with the Honor and Merit Awards Board. I have personally discussed with Chief of Support and Chief of Personnel of FE Division the 15 March memorandum of Mr. Lansdale.

2. The Agency neither has nor had employees who served "under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force." Consequently, none are eligible for consideration for individual submission to the Pentagon for the awarding of the Purple Heart. Second--it seems clear that the Defense/State correspondence and the work of the Holmes' group clearly shows that Lansdale's suggestion that any employee in Vietnam could be eligible has been considered and rejected. Third--I think without question if the proposed "Crimson Heart" gets off the ground at all, we will have an opportunity to participate. And finally--I believe that we should proceed directly with our own program regardless of the outcome of the "Crimson Heart" exercise, though should some of our people be found to be eligible for the "Crimson Heart", there is no reason why it couldn't be awarded also.

  
Acting Director of Personnel

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